



GPA COLLEGE MILESTONES

Freshman Year

Freshman year is essential in setting a sound foundation for the high school journey and college admissions process. Your main focus is successfully adjusting to high school and GPA culture as well as learning a very basic awareness of college and how the choices and decisions you make now will impact your college options later. Use the list of milestones below to help you stay on track.

Semester 1

Sep. – Jan.

- Review GPA's graduation requirements.
- Set academic and extracurricular goals for your first year in high school.
- Review your 1st semester grades and calculate your GPA.
- Research college entrance requirements.
- Take PSAT/NMSQT in October. (TBD)
- Build your resume by getting involved in your community through clubs, community service, internships or enrichment programs. (COVID-permitting)
- Create a Raise.Me account and start earning money for college. Start saving for college!
- Attend the 9th Grade Freshman Orientation Night.

Semester 2

Feb. – Jun.

- Review your transcript for accuracy. Ensure you're on track to meet all graduation requirements. Plan to take summer school if you're not on track. (TBD)
- Research 3 colleges you like and learn about admission requirements.
- Research college majors of interest to you.
- Attend college fairs and tours. They are virtual right now!
- Consider summer programs, internships or other jobs that match your careers of interest.
- Continue building your resume by getting involved in your community through clubs, community service, internships or enrichment programs. (COVID-permitting)



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Sophomore Year

Sophomore year is all about discovering strengths and areas of improvement as well as passions and potential career interests. This year, you will learn the basics of the admissions process including an introduction to standardized testing. Use the list of milestones below to help you stay on track.

Semester 1

Sep. – Jan.

- Challenge yourself by taking AP classes.
- Set academic and extracurricular goals for your second year at GPA.
- Learn about UC eligibility requirements; consider which UC school you like best and research GPA and testing averages for acceptance.
- Take PSAT/NMSQT in October. (TBD)
- Continue building your resume by getting involved in your community through clubs, community service, internships or enrichment programs. (COVID-permitting)

Semester 2

Feb. – Jun.

- Review your transcript for accuracy; ensure you're on track to meet all graduation requirements. Plan to take a summer school course if you're not on track. (TBD)
- Learn about CSU eligibility requirements; consider which CSU school you like best and research GPA and testing averages for acceptance.
- Research college majors of interest to you.
- Attend more college fairs and tours. They are virtual now!
- Consider summer programs, internships or other jobs that match your careers of interest.
- Continue saving for college! Every penny counts.
- Continue building your resume by getting involved in your community through clubs, community service, internships or enrichment programs. (COVID-permitting)



GPA COLLEGE MILESTONES

Junior Year

This year you will begin to assess your academic profile, strengths, interests to think critically about the direction you would like to take in pursuing a higher education. Use the list of milestones below to help you stay on track.

Semester 1

Sep. – Jan.

- Challenge yourself by taking AP classes.
- Begin building your college list. Consider what you want in a college and add at least 6 colleges this semester.
- Take PSAT/NMSQT in October. (TBD)
- Fine-tune your resume to include all activities, clubs, community service, internships or enrichment programs.
- Create CaliforniaColleges.edu account to track UC/CSU eligibility.
- Continue building your resume by getting involved in your community through clubs, community service, internships or enrichment programs. (COVID-permitting)

Semester 2

Feb. – Jun.

- Review your transcript for accuracy; ensure you're on track to meet all graduation requirements. Take summer school courses as necessary. (TBD)
- Attend more college fairs and tours. They are virtual now!
- Take the SAT or ACT at least once and Subject Test (TBD).
- Continue building your college list! You should have 8 – 10 colleges you are considering applying to.
- Review UC Personal Insight Questions (PIQs) & Common Application prompts and start brainstorming essay ideas.
- Choose 2 teachers to write your LOR's next year; also ask your counselor for a recommendation.
- Schedule a 1-on-1 college meeting with your counselor to discuss future plans.
- Continue building your resume by getting involved in your community through clubs, community service, internships or enrichment programs. (COVID-permitting)



GPA COLLEGE MILESTONES

Senior Year

Summer

- Finalize college list by First Day of School
- Download non-Common Application forms for teachers/counselors (if any)
- Enroll in test preparation courses
- Register for SAT/ACT tests (TBD)
- Research and apply for scholarships
- PIQ Writing

September

- Begin on-line Common Application/UC applications (Available Aug. 1)
- Create list of college application deadlines
- Submit Letter of Rec Packet (Resume & Brag Sheet) to your teachers/counselor
- Attend Senior Parent Night
- Continue applying for scholarships

October

- CSU Applications (Available Oct. 1)
- Attend Virtual College Fairs or speak with college representatives who visit school virtually
- Be sure official test scores are sent (via test agencies) to all colleges on your list (TBD)
- Continue scholarship applications

November

- Submit UC/CSU applications by mid-Nov. (Nov. 30th is absolute deadline)
- Submit applications to Early Action colleges, if any
- Print confirmations and make copies of all applications/documents submitted to colleges
- Gather family financial records in preparation for filing FAFSA/Dream Act application
- Continue applying for scholarships

December

- Schedule 1:1 appointment to submit your FAFSA/Dream Act application.
- If you completed a FAFSA/Dream Act application, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within 4 weeks of submission. If necessary, correct changes on the SAR and resubmit to the FAFSA processor.
- Submit all college applications with a January or later deadline.
- Keep all records, test scores reports and copies of applications for admission and financial aid.



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Senior Year

December (cont.)

- Send thank you notes to teachers/counselors for writing recommendations
- Continue applying for scholarships

January

- Create your "college portals" to the colleges you applied to (to monitor the status of your application)
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Continue working on financial aid application and submission

February

- Check your college portals to ensure that you are submitting additional required information to determine admission or financial aid
- **Relax!** Waiting for a reply can be a very anxious time.
- Continue applying for scholarships

March – April

- Ensure that you have submitted your financial aid application before the Mar. 2 deadline
- Fill-out Community College Application (if applicable)
- Monitor college portals/email for admission notifications
- Make a list of pros and cons of each college accepted to
- Discuss college plans with parents, teachers and counselor
- Sign up for college placement tests, if necessary (typically English/Math)
- Continue applying for scholarships

May – June

- Send in deposit, Letter of Intent, and housing forms to your college of choice no later than May 1.
- If you are waitlisted by your first choice college, do not lose hope. Talk with your counselor and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities and desire to attend.
- Complete the Housing Application
- Select Meal Plan/Room Selection
- Sign-up for College Orientation
- Sign-up for a College Summer Program
- **Congratulations!** You made it through high school! Enjoy graduation and have a great college experience.